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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

Fit Kids

Province promotes active lifestyle.
Page 2.

Fire ban continues

Grass fires pose threat in region.
Page 7.

Weaselling Around

Locals spot furry creatures scurrying about.
Page 3.

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Dressed for a fest



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Spencer Adler and Olivia Roy sport the latest T-shirt design for Port Colborne's Canal Days festival. The summer students are putting their time off from university toward helping out at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, where the shirts are available.

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Port Colborne kids finding Fun in the Sun

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Although it wasn't the sunniest of mornings, Port Colborne's PORTicipate program for kids, Fun in the Sun, launched last Wednesday at East Village Community Park. The Healthy Kids Community Challenge is a larger initiative from the provincial government to get kids out and playing.

"We're trying to expose them to a variety of physical activity," said Harry Hakim, manager of community services for the city.

The city teamed up with the Healthy Kids organizers to bring an array of different activities to the children, including sports at Vale Health and Wellness Centre and things to do at the park.

The government will give Niagara up to \$1.125 million over a three-year period to be a part of the program. That money is what is allowing cities like Port Colborne to offer so many things for kids to do.

At the launch last Wednesday, the kids played ball hockey and basketball, as well as a few other carnival-style games. On top of that, many of the kids also broke out the sidewalk chalk to make hopscotch and to draw on the concrete. There

was the park's playground and swing set to play on, too.

"This equipment will be around for years to come," Hakim said. "Our goal is to maintain this."

Monica Pickerskill, manager of the community and family support services with Port Colborne Community Living, said the kids, who are a part of the day camp program, couldn't wait to try out the different activities.

"The city really involved us, asking us what we need with our kids," she said.

She said it not only helps get kids out and away from technology, but it lets them be a part of their community, too. Hakim, along with Judith Rudoler, co-ordinator for Niagara Business Education Council and project manager for Healthy Kids in Niagara, said the program gives new opportunities to some of the children. Kids that might not otherwise have access to different parts of the community now have the chance to participate.

Rudoler said there are a number of reasons a child might not have the chance to participate in activities, but they definitely see "priority neighbourhood" struggle the most to get kids involved.

Hakim said it reminds him



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The kids are excited to get out and play once the equipment came out at East Village Community Park on Wednesday morning. They were there as a part of Port Colborne's Healthy Kids Community Challenge Fun in the Sun activities.

of when he was younger and would have programs like this in his neighbourhood in Toronto.

"It didn't matter what neighbourhood you were from, marginalized or not, everybody had

access to it," he said.

One of the main goals of the program is to address health risks like obesity in children.

An incentive being offered is a passport that, when filled,

puts the kids in for a prize draw. There are different activities listed in the passport and when a child goes to one, they receive a stamp to show they completed it.

Hakim said so far 700 to 800 of an available 1,000 passports have already been handed out.

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Public school board budget climbs by \$6 million

WYNNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

District School Board of Niagara will operate with a \$438.2-million budget for 2016-17.

That's an increase of \$6.07 million over 2015-16.

Most comes from a 1.25 per cent increase in teacher and support staff pay following central labour agreements negotiated earlier this

year.

The province passes along grant money to the board to cover the increases.

With the new budget, accepted by trustees last Monday, DSNB will staff and

operate 100 schools serving 24,302 elementary and 11,981 secondary students.

A total of 3,870 teachers, assistants, administrators and support staff will dip by 13.

Attrition is expected to take

care of the difference avoiding layoffs, trustees were told.

Board chair Dale Robinson said the board's staff have done well maintaining a balanced budget over the years.

Unlike some boards "who have to go begging" to avoid falling into deficit, DSNB has kept its budgets even, she said.

Continued on page 18

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'Ferret-looking things' at home on West Street

ALISON BENNER
Postmedia Network

Jennifer Copeland and her husband Jerry were sitting along the canal bank on West Street in Port Colborne last Wednesday when she saw them.

All of the sudden about six or seven of these little ferret-looking things came running across," she said.

The sight took her by surprise.

"Oh my god! What the heck are these?" she yelled.

Moments later another two ran by, followed by about five more. She estimated that there were as many as 14 of the animals in total.

"They were running all the way down to the end of the promenade where the stones go down into the water, and they were leaping into the water," she said. "They were literally running along the wall at the base of the promenade to the canal, running in a big pack."

It was a busy day along the waterfront with a few dozen people in the area, and Copeland said they weren't the only ones who stopped to watch the spectacle.

The Copelands visit the area about three or four times a week, but it was the first time they had an opportunity to

meet some of the local wildlife. CanalSide Restaurant owner Greg Poisson said the ferrets have called West Street home for at least the past five years, with a nest somewhere among the rocks along the canal bank.

"It's cool to have things like that around."

Poisson said he has yet to see the animals this summer, "but I've seen them over the last five years quite often."

And they don't seem very concerned about their human neighbours.

"I had them come into the backdoor of my restaurant once," he said, laughing. "We kind of swooshed it out, but they don't seem to bother anybody. Hey, we love all creatures."

Poisson said he has noticed an increasing amount of wildlife along the canal lately, while sitting in the patio area at the front of the restaurant. "I've seen in the evenings lots of ducks flying by all the time now," he said. "We do see a lot and it's obviously nice to see other creatures living around us."

Welland and District Humane Society executive director John Greer said the canal bank would provide an ideal natural habitat for the animals. "It's just a natural place for them to live," he said.



SUPPLIED

Jennifer Copeland captured this picture of a ferret-like animal scurrying along West Street on Wednesday.

He said they're probably catching fish in the canal, and mice among the rocks.

"They probably keep the mouse population down," he said.

"You might see them out and about more with their young offspring, teaching them to hunt and do all of that kind of stuff."

Greer advised people to admire the animals from a distance, and definitely do not try to catch any of them.

"If they bite you, it's a very nasty bite," he said.

"But they're hilarious little guys. They really are fun."

Based on a description of their colouring, Greer suspects that they're likely weasels rather than ferrets.

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Aboriginal jail population rising

ALISON LANLEY
Postmedia Network

An Indigenous person's chance of being incarcerated is 10 times higher than the national average of non-Indigenous adults in Canada.

"That disparity continues to grow," said Shane Gottfriedson, regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations in British Columbia.

Statistics indicate the Indigenous inmate population in Canadian prisons increased by more than 50 per cent between March 2005 and March 2016 and aboriginal offenders are less likely to be released early on parole.

"The criminal justice system is rooted in colonialism and practices and policies aimed at Indigenous people that amounts to a systematic discrimination,"

Gottfriedson said last Thursday. Gottfriedson was one of several panellists who participated in a strategy session at the annual general meeting of the Assembly of First Nations in Niagara Falls that focused on bridging the gaps in services within the justice system and supporting community safety plans and protocols.

Continued on page 14



ALISON LANLEY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

John Domm, president of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association, addresses the crowd at the Scotiabank Convention Centre, Thursday.

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New mode of relating to each other needed

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Have you ever asked yourself why the Black Lives Matter movement exists? The movement is part of the Canadian discussion following the BLM protests at the Toronto Pride parade and a member of The Tenors declaring "all lives matter" in his rewrite of the Canadian national anthem during the Major League Baseball all star game.

I'm not asking this question in the context of recent history in which you can say it exists as a response to tensions between African-Americans and police departments.

Rather, why did the circumstances that lead to the rise of BLM happen at all? If BLM is too American for your tastes, then ask yourself why in our Canadian context, the Idle No More movement rose out of First Nations communities?

Think about it. It's not as if the issues faced by our aboriginal brothers and sisters suddenly fell upon us in 2012 when INN came together. We've known about the poverty, the lack of opportunity, the justice and treaty issues since I was a boy. Consider that more than two decades after the Davis Inlet incidents put these issues before the eyes of the nation, the situation has barely improved. Only the names have changed. Instead of David Inlet, we're talking about Attawapiskat.



JACK ROLAND/TORONTO SUN

Rinaldo Walcott, a University of Toronto professor and member of the Anti-Black Racism network, speaks at the Black Lives Matter press conference on July 7.

What is it about our political and economic structures that apparently prevent us from crossing the Rubicon on these issues?

I ask these questions — questions for which there are no easy answers — following a lecture at Brock University in St. Catharines by University of Toronto professor Rinaldo Walcott, who has looked closely at issues of race, politics and freedom.

His Wednesday afternoon lecture last week was titled "Freedom thwarted: Post-Obama and the struggle for the demos," and asked the singular question: Did the presidency of

Barack Obama change issues of race in the United States?

Obama was the first African-American president, and our common wisdom tell us that whenever a member of a marginalized group reaches positions of high power or influence we have reached a critical milestone. That group is no longer marginalized.

While Walcott doesn't deny the historical importance of Obama's presidency nor the importance of representation in the halls of power, his answer to the question remains that

"Not very much."

This is because, he said, when a member of these groups — he they black people, gay people, women, or First Nations — reach social, economic or political influence, they become part of that system.

Walcott, who looks at issues of race and politics on a global and historical context, said he is a critic of the Obama administration and points out that it hasn't really changed American foreign policy.

Continued on next page

Compromise key to settling elections issue

The Trudeau government has been criticized for conspiring to improve its chances of forming the next Canadian political dynasty by forcing in a new voting system that favours the Liberal party.

But it's tough to feel sympathy when each opposition party favours a system that gives it an advantage.

The pots are calling the kettle black.

Maybe they are all charred — more interested in getting or keeping power than in producing the fairest, most representative system for electing MPs.

Whether that's the case or not, the Liberals are playing politics with voting systems on a more subtle level.

Justin Trudeau made electoral reform a

major issue in last year's election campaign. Vote Liberal, he said, and 2015 would be the last time that Canadian MPs would be elected by a simple majority vote.

It was a defining promise, one he badly wants to keep.

He chose Peterborough's young, rookie MP, Maryam Monsef, to be the face of the campaign. Monsef became Minister of Democratic Institutions and the campaign was on.

But it quickly focused on a secondary issue: Is a national referendum necessary to legitimize such fundamental change?

Monsef and the Liberals are extremely wary of a referendum. Initially they said no, then softened that to "possibly," Monsef stuck to that position last week when she

announced a new plan to educate Canadians about voting systems and induce those who don't normally vote in elections to make their wishes known.

Their referendum reluctance is understandable. A national vote would likely lose, especially if 60 per cent or better is needed for a win.

The Liberals' problem is that a referendum would come down to "yes" or "no" for just one of the many alternative styles of voting. Just as the national parties are split over what would be the best system, so are their supporters.

If 70 per cent of referendum voters wanted change — and it is not clear they do — more than 85 per cent of them would have to support the system on the ballot for it to win.

If the Liberals get their way and Alternate Vote is the choice on the ballot, many supporters of Mixed Member Representation and Proportional Representation would have to hold their noses and vote for a reform system they don't particularly want.

That is why Monsef is urging the House of Commons special committee on electoral reform to recommend one system — whatever it might be. A unified, all-party recommendation would, the Liberals hope, end calls for a referendum and ensure Trudeau's election promise is kept.

That could be framed as an example of the Canadian tradition of compromise working at its best, which is the argument Monsef and the Liberals are really selling.

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COMMENT

New mode of relating to each other needed

From previous page

"So under Obama, American drones are killing blacks in the Sudan," he said. "What can you say when the face of an empire is a black man?"

A fundamental part of the problem, Walcott said, is that American political and economic systems built a society that created the current racial and law enforcement tensions.

"What is needed is a new mode of relating to the world and to each other," Walcott said.

If we cannot think of a new way to organize our politics, that isn't because another way doesn't exist. It is, rather, a failure of our imagination, he said.

The problem, Walcott said, is that when we try to address the issues of our day, we are deliberately constraining ourselves to think within the systems we already live in.

By way of illustration, think again about Idle No More. The issues that plague our First Nations communities are the direct result of generations of systemic racism.

The dots of history are easily connected. We can all see them.

Are the systems that made the problem even capable of concretely addressing it?

That sort of radical change is not easy and Walcott offers no simple answers. He said we have lived within the same kind

of politics for so long, we don't really have adequate language to describe a free society that may look entirely different from what we have now.

Fortunately, there is historical precedent that proves we can think way outside the box when we want to.

History needs will have noticed a peculiar word in the title of Walcott's talk. Demos, it's a Greek word meaning "the people," and is the root of the word "democracy," a system of government invented by the ancient Athenians.

The fascinating thing about Athenian democracy is that it had no precedent. The Athenians invented rule by the demos almost out of the ether and nearly over night. It was a revolution that changed the world and while our government is rather different than the democracy of Athens, we are still the children of that great experiment.

That is the kind of imaginative thinking Walcott said we need. And given the number of problems we face that seem intractable, he has a point.

"None of us should be satisfied by the world as it is," Walcott said. And he's right.

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LAURA BARTON/WEILLAND TRIBUNE

Kathleen (KC) Frase, left, and Genevieve Orton are both competing in Rio for the Summer Olympic Games. They were in Welland on Saturday for the Balm Beach Regatta. Orton's daughter, Annika Pike, was there to support her.

Olympians paddle in Welland

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

national Flatwater Centre for the Balm Beach Regatta.

Kathleen (KC) Frase and Genevieve Orton will be competing for Canada in the two- and four-women's kayak at the Summer Games in Rio next month.

Last Saturday they were at the Inter-

Continued on Page 17

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Region's fire risk dropped from extreme to high

FIRE BAN from Page 7

Bob Dickson, chief fire prevention officer for the City of Niagara Falls, said his emergency services responded to two calls last Wednesday for grass fires.

"It's been so dry we've had an increase in calls due to the wet vegetation," he said.

The fire risk has dropped from extreme to high for the region, according to Natural Resources Canada.

Rural areas are especially vulnerable to fire in these conditions.

"It's not only just grass," said Lymburner, "it's other things that are... stockpiled like peat moss, manure, farming byproducts."

"When you leave them in large piles, in this dry heat then they create a fire hazard within themselves and they have to be moved on a more frequent basis," he said.

However, that doesn't mean there aren't still fires being started by those not adhering to the burn ban.

"We've attributed a few fires to the result of either unattended campfire, a cooking fire that was left unattended, or one was a result of perhaps fireworks," said Dickson.

"We just want to remind them that

When you leave them in large piles, in this dry heat then they create a fire hazard within themselves and they have to be moved on a more frequent basis."

Bob Dickson, chief fire prevention officer for the City of Niagara Falls

the open-air burning bylaw is still in place," he added. "We're using extreme measures to deal with extreme conditions. We're asking everyone to be extra cautious at this time."

Said Wood, "It's absolutely imperative that everybody abides by the fire ban and then protect each other as a community."

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A relaxing community float

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

It started out as an idea shared on Facebook and has transformed into an event with more than 2,000 people saying they're interested in going.

Float Fest 2016 is an event all about relaxing the day away on an inflatable while drifting down the Welland Recreational Canal.

The event was started by 25-year-old Wellander Phil Gladman, who originally shared a post on the social

media website of a similar event in Helsinki, Finland.

"All I said is, with a caption, I was like we should have something like this happen in Welland," he said.

From there, his post got a lot of encouragement and people really wanting to see

it happen, so he started planning.

Starting at Welland's Scuba Park just off of Lincoln Street, people will take their inflatables, get in the water and float down to the dock area by the amphitheatre by Bridge 13. It's a family-friendly event.

Gladman said, so there's no alcohol allowed.

"There's always Drinky-McSmockey, but there's really no room for him here."

He said it's about having some good clean fun. He's planning on having his four-year-old daughter participate.

He's taken precautions to make sure it's a safe event by getting several YMCA lifeguards on board.

"There is really nobody with first aid experience who's going to be out there quicker than a lifeguard," he said.

See **FLOAT** | Page 11

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LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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Fledgling event wants to support The Hope Centre

FLOAT from Page 10

For its inaugural year, whether there will be vendors or not is still up in the air. Gladman suspects at the very least food trucks that do go might stop in to see what's happening and start selling.

The only table he is hoping to have set up for sure is one to collect donations for The Hope Centre. He said his friend wants to collect donations for the food bank.

"I'd love to see a big pile of cans (and) boxed food stacked up," he said since The Hope Centre is something important to him, too.

Something he does have planned for the event is a "Laziest Floater" prize. He said there's no criteria for it and the winner will be chosen by applause. The plan is to have a large inflatable that could fit two or more people as the prize.

As for getting back to the starting point afterwards, he

said walking down the canal pathway is a great option.

He also looked at how this event could impact the city, especially since there is such a huge online interest with people saying they'd be willing to drive two hours to make it.

"There's so many ways that the city could benefit from this silly idea."

Between people stopping at local food establishments or others who may need to purchase items they may have forgotten, he sees a lot of potential for some business.

He said the event itself is free and he's not looking for any compensation at all, even if he needs to put in some extra money for insurance with the BIA.

"I just want to see this happen," he said.

The date of the event is set for Aug. 28. All details can be found on Float Fest 2016's Facebook event page.

barton@postmedia.com



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

Phil Gladman is showing what his event is all about: lazing down the canal on an inflatable. He's hosting Welland's first ever Float Fest and is inviting everyone to come out for a relaxing drift down the canal.

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'We don't need to get tough on crime'

Continued from page 3

Clive Weighill, chief of the Saskatoon Police Service and president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, said a better allocation of funding dollars would go a long way to address the issue of over representation of Indigenous people in Canadian jails.

"We don't want more jails but, for those who are incarcerated, we are asking for better services," he said.

"In my humble opinion, we don't need to get tough on crime. We have to get tough on poverty, we have to get tough on racism, we have to get tough on disadvantage."

John Domm, president of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association and chief

of the Rama Police Service,
agreed.

"A key part of our job is enforcing the law, but we can't just arrest away the problems," he explained.

He said "long-term planning, not short-term programs" are needed if First Nations police services are to be able to properly address challenges in their communities.

More than 1,000 people attended the three-day AFN's 37th annual general assembly held at Scotiabank Convention Centre.

National Chief Perry Bellegarde and RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson signed an agreement last Tuesday to develop policies to effectively address racism in the RCMP and to ensure public safety

without discrimination.

The protocol also supports action to address the safety and security of indigenous women and girls.

Although indigenous women make up four per cent of Canada's female population, 16 per cent of all women murdered in Canada between 1980 and 2012 were indigenous.

A report by the RCMP in 2014 identified a total of 1,181 missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. The federal government is in the process of launching a national inquiry into the missing and murdered women.

a.langley@postmedia.com

Twitter: @nfallslangley

[illegible]

IN BRIEF

Maloney back at helm

Mayor John Maloney has returned to council.

He thanked Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny who acted as mayor in his stead and the councillors for a job well done in his absence as he recovered at home from a stroke.

No fire at any time

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner last Monday night requested fire ban clarification from Port Colborne fire Chief Thomas Cartwright as people have been asking if it is OK to have a fire if it is on a solid surface.

Cartwright said no — "a fire ban is a fire ban."

He reminded council that this includes campgrounds.

Cartwright did commend the city's residents for paying attention to the ban, however, as there have only been three complaints issued since it was put in place.

Which way to the beach?

Ward 4 Couns. Ron Bodner and

Barbara Butters both brought up the issue of beach signs in the Pleasant Beach area at last Monday night's city council meeting.

They said while there are signs about the beach, they are not in good view or not very clear. They've requested a review of the sign locations and clarity.

Coun. Desmarais also requested that beach signs be addressed because people can't find the beaches.

Harry Hakim, community services manager, said he would look into the signage issue.

Keeping at-risk residents cool in the summer

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais brought to the table concerns about residents in supportive living facilities and the summer heat.

She said these people are even more at risk for heat-related illnesses and asked if there is any governing body that could make sure owners of the buildings are keeping their cooling systems functional.

Scott Luey, the municipality's acting chief administrative officer, said he doesn't know of anyone off hand, but will look into the matter.

— Laura Barton, Postmedia Network



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Paddlers see Rio Games as their last shot at gold

From Page 6

"I'm still kind of in a surreal state," said Fraser. "I won't believe it until I get to Rio."

Orton, who is with the Oredna Canoe Club in Lake Echo, N.S., said it's been different being on the receiving end of the awe and reverence that people feel for Olympic athletes.

Orton said she's normally the one frekking out when she spots someone who has competed at that level.

"They took a picture of me and all of Oredna's old Olympians and I'm like 'Oh, my god, this is the best moment of my life,'" she said. "I'm in this now. I'm in this club. It's very weird."

Orton has always had her eye on the Olympic prize, though. When she was starting out in gymnastics as a three-year-old, she hoped to make the Olympics that way.

As she got taller and taller, she started to realize being an Olympic gymnast wasn't going to happen for her. She started kayaking after that.

Fraser said she's been dreaming of it, too, and seeing other kayakers achieve success is what has kept her going.

"I think that's pretty much what kept me in the sport, seeing national team athletes paddle at clubs," she said. "When you actually see the athlete, it motivates you more because

you're like 'Well, this person exists. They come to my club'."

Athlete visibility is a big thing for Fraser and now she's excited to have kids looking at her that way.

Fraser and Orton trained long and hard for this success and say they are lucky to have significant others who are also involved in the sport. Because of that, they understand the amount of time it takes to train and compete in these competitions.

For both women, though, their kayaking careers are coming to a close.

"We're both due to retire at the end of the year," Orton, 32, said. "So this was a really nice way for us both to cap off our careers as paddlers."

Fraser, 30, said talking about retiring or thinking of a race being the last is a faux pas in the kayaking community, but is something that helped them get to where they are. Orton said they wanted to finish each race feeling good about it in case it was their last one.

"I think that really helped with going through the momentum of all the qualification stages," she said.

"You know, if it's our last year I just wanted to finish on a good note like when I started paddling," said Fraser.

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Board plans to enhance program at St. John's outdoor centre

Continued from page 2

The board may draw on its reserve to cover \$1 million of potential additional increases approved last Monday. They involve specific strategic goals set by the board.

For example, \$50,000 will go to a school-based mental health liaison teacher initiative. It trains a teacher in each school to co-ordinate a support system for

the mental health of students.

Another \$50,000 would cover tuition for teachers taking additional qualification courses to strengthen the system's overall math program. About 550 elementary teachers have already taken courses.

Backing it up is \$100,000 for an interactive math computer program.

The board will set aside

\$50,000 for what business services superintendent Stacy Veld called "curb appeal."

Schools throughout the system have landscaping and gardens programs that enhance schools in their role as neighbourhood hubs.

The money will allow hiring of high school students and post-secondary students to care for the gardens in the summer.

The board plans to hire an additional field technician, at \$43,000, for the St. John's Outdoor Education Centre, which is now undergoing renovations. The adventure guide will support school programs in the Short Hills area.

Meanwhile, two educational assistants at \$86,000 will work in a program to reduce suspension and expulsions by students with

behavioural problems.

Similarly, 10 education assistants will be hired for \$430,000 to assist about 160 preschool children with medical and physical needs entering kindergarten programs.

The board will recruit two more social workers for \$100,000 to join six already in the system. They work with elementary students with serious mental health

concerns that could lead to hospitalization.

This September Veld will become the board's treasurer.

Education director Warren Hoshizaki said last Monday he will pass on the "treasurer" portion of his "secretary treasurer" title.

Veld and chief financial officer Rick Weresak prepared the board's budget.



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Niagara getting ready to be set for GO

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Local work remains on track to support GO Transit's arrival to Niagara.

Following a provincial announcement last month that daily commuter rail service will reach the area by 2021, regional staff remain focused on plans for station construction and surrounding development.

Niagara Region's planning and development committee received an update last Wednesday on the GO hub and transit stations study, which has been underway since January.

The province has committed to bringing GO to Grimsby by 2021, expanding through to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls by 2023. The rail expansion project will include construction of a new station at Casa-Bianca Boulevard in Grimsby, as well as upgrades to existing train stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Those retrofits will begin as soon as next summer.

The Region's study, costing \$712,000 and set to be finished in 15 months will result in creation of preferred concepts for the three proposed GO stations, as well as an additional station at Ontario Street in Beamsville.

It will also include secondary plans for lands in and around the stations, a transportation analysis and market analysis to determine potential area development.

The first of six phases has been completed, with context and review of the study finished in June, said Diana Morreale, the Region's manager of commu-

nity planning.

The second phase will include work on the visions for the transit hub and stations, will review best practices and look at future demand and capacity.

It will also include details such as connectivity needs, parking needs and costing of related capital projects, in addition to an implementation plan.

Public consultation meetings were held in the four municipalities with stations at the end of June, but only a handful of people attended each.

Future engagement sessions will take place when the draft secondary plans are available in late fall, Morreale said, adding the project team is aware the turnout was not ideal.

In Grimsby, residents recommended the station's height should preserve views of the waterfront and escarpment. Concerns were also raised that part of the structure will be within the green belt, which may threaten the woodlot and natural corridors nearby, planner Denise Landry said. "The group suggested that buffers be used around the station to protect the features."

Suggestions were made in the other communities about restricting the height of the stations, ensuring train connectivity and improving the street-scapes in surrounding areas.

West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner called it "vital" that focus be placed on how people get to and from the stations. In addition to the creation of an inter-municipal transit system, that should also include a closer look at road infrastructure en route and additional parking opportunities in other

areas with busing to the station, he said.

"I think we need to be cognizant we're going to really create some traffic jams in the local area around there."

Staff are reaching out to the Metrolinx to determine how to move the process forward and to discuss who will be responsible for completing differ-

ent project components, acting chief administrative officer Mo Lewis said.

If the Region completes some of the work Metrolinx had initially expected to take on, there may be some leveraging opportunities to bring the service to Niagara sooner, he added.

With the province leaving the door open for improvements within the

timeline, Regional Chairman Alan Casslin called it important that the Region continue its advocacy, taking down any potential barriers and doing what it can to "help the project move forward faster if at all possible."

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Jessica Wilson



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Lincoln farm quarantine continues

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

There have been no signs that avian flu found at a Lincoln duck farm two weeks ago has spread beyond the property, says Canada's chief veterinary officer.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to investigate at the King Street farm, which was placed under quarantine July 7 after birds on the commercial property tested positive for H5 avian influenza.

"We're not seeing any evidence that the infection has spread," Dr. Harper Kochhar said last Friday, reiterating precautions that were taken to contain the virus, including the "depopulation" of 14,000 ducks on the property.

A control zone, including all properties within a three-kilometre radius around the infected farm, was put in place last Sunday to help contain the disease, which is highly contagious among birds.

That perimeter remains in effect.

"All of the premises known to have birds that are located within this zone, as well as any other high-risk control premises have been placed under quarantine," Kochhar said.

"We are continuing surveillance and testing within the zone to look for any other evidence of avian influenza. However, to date all of the testing has been negative."

The CFIA "continues to monitor the situation closely," he said.

"We will keep the avian influenza control zone in effect until further notice and are committed to updating the public throughout the remainder of this investigation."

The control zone contains 23 properties, including six commercial operations and several noncommercial hobby farms and backyard flocks.

The H5 strain discovered on the farm causes only mild illness in birds and rarely affects humans who do not have consistent contact with infected birds.

Avian influenza does not pose a food safety risk if poultry is handled and cooked properly.

However, the infected ducks had to be euthanized as a precaution because the virus is capable of mutating and could potentially become a danger to humans and other animals, Kochhar told the Standard last Monday.

With the infected ducks now euthanized, the CFIA

is overseeing the cleaning and disinfection of the farm, which will include destruction

of feed and sanitization of equipment, vehicles and structures on the property.

Samples will be taken following the cleanup to ensure no virus is detected.

nfrth@postmedia.com
Twitter: @mfrthStandard



WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY
Party Tray Pizza with one (1) topping
\$14.99 +tax

TUESDAY
Large Pizza & 24 Wings with three (3) toppings
\$21.99 +tax

WEDNESDAY
Large Pizza with one topping
\$9.75 +tax

THURSDAY
Party Tray Pizza & 36 Wings with three (3) toppings
\$34.99 +tax

LUNCH SPECIAL
Daily Pizza Slice with Pop or Water
\$3.00
Dollar Pizza Slice Thursdays
\$1.00

PIZZA	
PERSONAL SIZE	
1 Item	\$5.00
Extra Items	\$0.50
Plus Tax	
MEDIUM (12")	
Just Cheese	\$10.65
Plus 1 Item	\$11.40
Plus 2 Items	\$12.15
Plus 3 Items	\$12.90
Plus 4 Items	\$13.65
Plus 5 Items	\$14.40
Plus 6 Items	\$15.15
The Works	\$18.20
Bruschetta Pizza	\$13.75
Buffalo Wing Pizza	\$15.75
Chicken BBQ Pizza	\$15.75
Greek Pizza	\$16.25
Extra Items	\$0.75
Gluten Free Crust (10")	ADD \$3.00
Plus Tax	
LARGE (14")	
Just Cheese	\$12.15
Plus 1 Item	\$13.15
Plus 2 Items	\$14.15
Plus 3 Items	\$15.15
Plus 4 Items	\$16.15
Plus 5 Items	\$17.15
Plus 6 Items	\$18.15
The Works	\$20.70
Bruschetta Pizza	\$15.75
Buffalo Wing Pizza	\$18.25
Chicken BBQ Pizza	\$18.25
Greek Pizza	\$19.95
Extra Items	\$1.00
Plus Tax	

PARTY TRAY (21")	
Just Cheese	\$16.90
Plus 1 Item	\$18.90
Plus 2 Items	\$20.90
Plus 3 Items	\$22.90
Plus 4 Items	\$24.90
Plus 5 Items	\$26.90
Plus 6 Items	\$28.90
The Works	\$33.70
Bruschetta Pizza	\$21.19
Buffalo Wing Pizza	\$24.74
Chicken BBQ Pizza	\$24.74
Greek Pizza	\$26.74
Extra Items	\$2.00
Plus Tax	

COMBOS	
PIZZA & WINGS	
Medium Pizza with 3 Toppings	
- and 12 Chicken Wings	\$19.49
- and 24 Chicken Wings	\$23.99
Large Pizza with 3 Toppings	
- and 12 Chicken Wings	\$22.49
- and 24 Chicken Wings	\$26.49
- and 36 Chicken Wings	\$30.49
- and 48 Chicken Wings	\$33.99
Party Tray Pizza with 3 Toppings	
- and 12 Chicken Wings	\$29.24
- and 24 Chicken Wings	\$33.24
- and 36 Chicken Wings	\$37.24
- and 48 Chicken Wings	\$41.24
Plus Tax	

WINGS	
HOT - MEDIUM - MILD - HONEY GARLIC - DEATH	
12 Chicken Wings	\$10.14
24 Chicken Wings	\$19.45
36 Chicken Wings	\$27.99
48 Chicken Wings	\$34.45
Includes Colory & Blue Cheese. Plus Tax	

PANZAROTTI	
Includes 3 Toppings	\$11.75
Extra Items	\$0.75
Plus Tax	
PEROGIES	
Six (6) Perogies	\$6.45
Six (6) Perogies with onion	\$7.45
and bacon	\$7.45
Nine (9) Perogies	\$8.45
Nine (9) Perogies with onion	\$9.45
and bacon	\$9.45
Plus Tax: Includes your cream	

EXTRAS	
Extra Wing Sauce	\$0.50
Extra Blue Cheese or Colory	\$0.50
Extra Sweet Cream	\$0.50
Dipping Sauce	\$0.70
Plus Tax	

BEVERAGES	
Bottle of Water	\$1.00
Can of Pop	\$1.00
Milk (Chocolate or White)	\$1.55
Orange Juice	\$2.00
Plus Tax: Selection may vary	

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Pepperoni	
Sausage	
Ground Beef	
Red Onions	
Green Peppers	
Fresh Tomatoes	
Hot Peppers	
Italian Sausage	
Pineapple	
Broccoli	
Black Olives	
Sweet Peppers	
Green Olives	
Mushrooms	
Feta Cheese	
Horn	
Spinach	
Bacon	
Anchovies	

PREMIUM TOPPINGS/ITEMS	
Medium \$1.95 • Large \$1.95 • Party Tray \$3.00	
Chicken	

SPECIALTY PIZZAS

BRUSCHETTA
Seasoned diced tomato and onion on a garlic spread. Topped with romano cheese.

BUFFALO WING
Chicken is wing sauce of choice on a blue cheese spread. Topped with diced celery.

CHICKEN BBQ
Chicken is barbecue sauce on a red pizza sauce spread with a hint of diced red onion.

GREEK
Pizza topped with spinach, tomato, black olives, and feta on a garlic spread.

Prices listed Under Pizzas, all include cheese



BOB THYNE/STYX/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The quarantine remains in effect at the Lincoln duck where avian influenza was discovered last week.

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High temperatures heat up sales

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Excessive heat alerts have become a common occurrence in the past few weeks, and while some are groaning about the weather, others are soaking it up.

Business for air conditioning and fan companies is heating up across Niagara.

John Adams, owner of Niagara Home Heating, said his company is usually busy during summer months, but this year has been especially busy. He said it's been difficult keeping up with demand, but his employees are managing well. He said he has had to refer people to other companies at times due to the demand.

The best time of year to install an air-conditioning unit is May or September. Adams said this will ensure companies doing the installation are not being overburdened. He recommended people check their systems regularly and take care of them. He said people should wash the outside of their unit and check the filter.

Business has increased by 100 per cent since last year. Niagara Home and Heating has been installing about three to four air conditioning units per day.

"The heat wave is 100 per cent to blame for how busy we've been," Adams said.

While some people are enjoying the cool indoors, others



ALIE JOCKAM/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Karler Ellis, 16, and his father Shawn Ellis look to escape the high heat by way of an outing to the Avondale Dairy Bar. It was a trip that also followed Karlter's treatment at Juravinski Hospital in Hamilton for a brain tumour that he has been battling. Karlter has another five weeks of treatment and hopes to make a full recovery.

ers are finding all they need is a sweet treat to cool off.

Madison Plalce, manager of Avondale Dairy Bar, said compared to last year the rural St. Catharines ice cream parlour has been much busier.

"The hotter the day, the busier we are."

Plalce said she noticed the store is pretty busy in the evening.

"We've had to have longer shifts and a lot more shifts. And do a little more hiring to keep up with the demand," Plalce said.

With the increase in cus-

tomers, Plalce said employees have had to keep a closer eye on inventory as not to run out.

"Usually we probably go through 20 to 30 tubs — we have 11.4-litre tubs. And we usually go through 20 to 25 tubs a night."

Plalce said last year the business would use about 15 to 20 tubs of ice cream per day. She said there are usually 44 different flavours available, so the dairy bar must stay aware of what's selling fast. She said that doesn't even include the boxes of ice cream

they sell, and there's no way of knowing how much they sell in a day.

Ice-cream parlours and air conditioning companies aren't the only ones struggling to keep up with the hot demands.

Tessier Pools in St. Catharines has seen a 20 per cent increase in pool installations compared to last year.

"Usually you go gang busters to the end of July and taper off in August, but I don't think we are going to see that this year," said owner Richard Tessier.

He said the heat has made business boom, which is great, but it is harder for construction. His employees have to start much earlier in the day to make sure they can get work done before it gets too hot. He said the days are much longer, too, because staff need to take more breaks so they don't overwork themselves.

"Days start early, last longer, so you take full advantage of the work as it comes in because it is a seasonal business and you just have to adapt I suppose."

Tessier said his prediction is business will continue to boom until the end of fall. He said he's ecstatic about the work, but exhausted at the same time.

The high temperatures are expected to continue for the next two weeks.

mallenbergp@postmedia.com

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